

pates the darkness with wonderful rapidity.

"Tonight as I look through the darkness the finger tips of light suggest to my vision the wonderful possibilities that confront us in this new year if we but continue to press to the front in the battle for humanity and bear the banner of democracy into the fiercest of the fight, leading a host of over seven million and a half of American voters who are 'just democrats, that's all.'"

#### MR. SHALLENBERGER.

Mr. Shallenberger made many witty references to recent political scandals in Nebraska, and drew from them lessons which he insisted should be taken to heart by every Nebraskan who loved the good name of the state. He said that after reading the "biased and unpartisan republican press" for a number of years he had about come to the conclusion that "Bryan and Bryanism had consigned the state and its people to oblivion, but in the last few weeks I have come to see that through the efforts of certain distinguished republicans, whom the party has always delighted to honor, we were slowly but surely coming out from beneath the shadow and blight of populism and the taint of Bryanism, into the pure sunlight of a grand jury investigation for bribery and conspiracy against the interests of the United States. Talk, Mr. Toastmaster, is cheap; but it takes money to buy postoffices." Mr. Shallenberger said he had traveled a great deal during the last few months, and he had found everywhere that the fame of Nebraska under its present republican administration had preceded him. Every time he boasted of Nebraska's immense yield of wheat and corn, and of the great growth in the beef industry, some fellow always interrupted him to ask if the yield from the Alma postoffice was about the average yield for the whole Fifth congressional district. "But, Mr. Toastmaster," said Mr. Shallenberger, "if the people of Nebraska value the reputation of this fair state as dearly as I believe they do, and hold it as they should as the chiefest jewel in her treasury, they will rebuke those who have trailed her proud banner in the dust, and place her honor and her glorious future in the hands of the grand old democratic party, where destiny and sound political judgment will both lead her sooner or later. What Nebraska needs in this her hour of peril is men to lead her up from the darkness and despair, into which her present leaders have cast her down, into the pure sunlight of political honesty and political integrity. What we need at this hour is rather men than platforms. I myself place but little dependence upon mere party pledges in a time like this. Platforms are largely made to get into office upon. We hear a great deal of specious promises and talk about 'national honor and standing up for Nebraska,' before election, but we find but little about it after the offices have been filled. We need men that come fresh from the people. The people are always honest. Men of the plains and men of the hills, men from the workshop and men from the farm. Men who will be the foundation of this state's credit and her reputation in times of need and the bulwark and shield of her honor in its hour of peril—not her defamers—men who will help us to restore once more the purity of popular government, our boasted policy of equality of all men before the law, and that spirit of individualism and American independence upon which the perpetuity and

foundation of popular government must finally rest."

#### MR. SMYTHE.

Speaking of "Fusion, Good and Bad," Mr. Smythe recalled some interesting facts of history connected with the two Cleveland administrations. While commending Cleveland's first administration as democratic, he declared that the second Cleveland administration disrupted the party and reduced it from a majority party with every democratic opportunity before it, to a party hopelessly in the minority. He sarcastically referred to those democrats who denounce fusion with men holding party names other than democratic, and still pay homage to a man who deliberately sought and secured fusion with interests antagonistic to democratic principles. He specifically mentioned Cleveland's fusion with Wall street and its republican representatives in congress to secure legislation contrary to democratic policies and principles, and to prevent legislation that was democratic. Reviewing the history of the democratic party between 1892 and 1896, and showing the demoralization that obtained when the campaign year of 1896 dawned, he spoke of the loyal democrats who stood forth and demanded a speedy return to the old and well tried paths of democracy. He said: "Behold the party in 1896 after it had thrown off the corporation element. It had risen from insignificance to great power and had taken on the stature of a man, noble and commanding. It now became a guiding influence in the deliberations of the national organization. After that, men anxiously listened to know what Nebraska democrats thought upon this question or upon that. We ceased to follow and commenced to lead. The world learned where Nebraska was and from time to time its eye was centered upon it, and today the action of the party in no state is watched with more interest than the action of our party here. The fusion which brought this about was good. It may be that it is at an end because impracticable, but no man who contributed to its creation and assisted in its maintenance can feel aught but a sense of pride that he was permitted to do so.

"As the dew to the blossom, the bud to the bee,  
As the scent of the rose are these memories to me."

"When in after times some worthy person comes to write the history of the democratic party of the nation one of its highest pages will be that devoted to the part taken by the democracy of Nebraska under the leadership of him whom we delight to honor tonight."

#### MR. BERGE.

Referring to the character of the men needed to fight the battles of the hour, Mr. Berge said:

"To fight the battles of the hour, we need men who have faith that right will prevail, but who believe there is no road to national safety except in constant distrust. The weed of slavery grows upon any soil. You cannot save this nation by simply prating of the achievements of the past. There is no Canaan in government. The manna of popular liberty must be gathered each day or it will rot. You must agitate constantly lest 'despotism, like a shrouding mist, steal over the mirror of freedom.' The waters must be constantly stirred so that there may be health in their flow. The people must be kept in a re-awakening each day lest their liberties slip away."

After reviewing briefly the events leading up to the campaign of 1896, and the events of that campaign, Mr. Berge said:

"Yes, we lost the presidency, but we gained a new manhood; we gained a quickened political conscience. This is the laurel that perches on our ban-



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